

QUARANTOTTO VELIVOLI ITALIANI ATTACCO LE LINEE AUSTRIACHE

Lo Sbarco sulle Coste Albanesi Compiuto in Circostanze Difficilissime, tra le Insidie delle Mine

L'EROISMO DI UN PRETE

ROMA, 17 Dicembre. Come ripetea all'artiglieria austriaca che nel gioracolo tiro sui villaggi occupati dagli italiani distruggendo l'abitato, una formidabile squadra aveva il compito di serpeggiare verso il pomeriggio di mercoledì sulle linee di difesa austriache in Val Chiapovano gettando la morte e la distruzione nelle linee del nemico.

Gli aviatori italiani lasciarono cadere bombe su Chiapovano e sul vicino accampamento austriaco, uccidendo centinaia di soldati nemici. La squadra aerea italiana era in più grande che fosse mai entrata in azione sul fronte italo-austriaco durante la guerra, e gli aviatori si trovarono spesso in grave pericolo di essere annientati. Però ritornarono tutti senza danni alla loro base di operazione.

Ad un certo punto cinque degli aeroplani italiani discendevano ad un'altezza di poche centinaia di metri, sfidando il violentissimo fuoco dei cannoni e delle mitragliatrici austriache e sparando sul nemico con i loro piccoli cannoni a tiro rapido e con le mitragliatrici. In tal modo questi cinque aviatori riuscirono a costringere il nemico ad abbandonare la trincea che esso occupava.

Dall'ultimo comunicato ufficiale pubblicato a Roma si rileva che sono in corso di lavori di artiglieria in Val di Conca, dove gli austriaci bombardano le posizioni recentemente occupate dagli italiani e perdute da loro sui monti di Cadore, Tre Cime di Montafone, l'artiglieria italiana ha cannoni di artiglieria e colonne austriache in marcia, causando loro gravi perdite e danni.

UN PIROSCAFO AFFONDATO

Giungo notizia che un sottomarino nemico ha affondato, sfregando il piroscafo italiano Porto Sadi, di 230 tonnellate. Il piroscafo compiva viaggi tra Genova ed i porti dell'Arabia e del Mar Rosso. Era stato varato nel 1914. Non si hanno per ora altri particolari circa l'affondamento, ma si crede che il piroscafo sia stato attaccato nel Mediterraneo.

PARTICOLARI SULLO SBARCO

Si hanno ora particolari sullo sbarco della spedizione italiana in Albania. Lo sbarco fu compiuto in circostanze difficilissime. Le navi da guerra austriache avevano seminato le coste dell'Albania di un numero infinito di mine che avevano collocato anche a difesa dei porti albanesi. Quando il trasporto Re Umberto fu affondato, il capitano del piroscafo, Don Parolin, rifiutò di sbarcare se prima non fossero sbarcati tutti quelli che si trovavano a bordo.

Fin in quando il ministro Sonnino aveva dichiarato alla Camera che l'Italia avrebbe mandato truppe in aiuto della Serbia, gli austriaci al nostro attivissimi nell'Adriatico cercando di tutte le maniere di impedire lo sbarco. Le mine erano state sollecitate a "ces" breve distanza l'una dall'altra e in tal numero che le navi italiane dovettero stare costantemente al lavoro per aprire la strada ai trasporti. Ma anche questo, ogni notte, proiettili di artiglieria austriaca, ed aerei tornavano al lavoro e sollecitavano nuove mine.

KELLER IS HELD IN TRUNK MURDER

Continued from Page One that showing that McNichol had borrowed \$200 shortly before he disappeared. This money was never accounted for. It was Keller who had called on McNichol at his age (Keller is 47 and McNichol would be now 28 if he had lived), to form the Keller Leather Goods Company, 42 North 13th street, in which Keller was nominally foreman, in the latter part of 1913.

The first witness at the hearing of Keller was Miss Agnes McNichol, a pretty girl of 15, who lives with her brother Bernard at 725 Corinthian avenue. She is second cousin of the murdered man. She said that a few days after her cousin had disappeared she was asked by Daniel McNichol's young cousin, Mrs. Marie Jennings McNichol, to help look for her husband. She went to the laundry of Conner and Keller, as they had heard that Keller had gone into a new business after the disappearance of his employer.

It was 10 o'clock in the morning, but the door of the laundry was locked and she could not get in, although the place was open for business the day before that and the day after. It struck her as strange that she could not get in and inquire in the neighborhood without result. Her brother testified that he had seen Keller later and asked him if he knew where McNichol was, but could get no satisfaction from him.

SEEN DIGGING IN CELLAR

Then Conner testified. He said: "Keller and I went into the laundry business—the Red Star Wet Wash Laundry, 402 Frankford avenue—the first week in April, 1914. I put up \$50 and he put up \$50. That was our capital. In the second week of April I went down into the cellar one afternoon and saw Keller digging a hole there, a few feet from where the body was found. "Why, what are you digging that hole for?" I asked him. "Keller answered, 'I'm digging this for a concrete base for a new boiler we ought to have in here."

LAWYER TESTIFIES

William H. Hepburn, Mrs. McNichol's lawyer, testified that he had called on Keller shortly after McNichol's disappearance and asked him if he knew where the missing man was. "I believe he's in Detroit," said Keller. "What makes you think so?" "Because John A. Wade, McNichol's partner in the leather goods business," said Keller, "lives there and I imagine he's gone to visit him."

PRISONER'S WIFE CALM

Mrs. Keller sat neatly dressed in turban, with plumes, fur coat and dark suit. She was impassive during the testimony. Keller evidently feared she would break down at the sight of the exhibit, but she did not. He glanced nervously around at her. He was one sign of any nervousness throughout the trial. Following the detective's testimony, which dealt with the finding of the body and the identification, Keller was held back for the coroner's inquest and sent back to his cell in City Hall. Keller, it was learned, had borrowed

\$2000 from the Real Estate Title Insurance and Trust Company three months before his disappearance on March 30, 1914. He mortgaged his properties at 1322 South Front street and 2043 Catharine street for the purpose. He did not put the money in bank and there is nothing to show that he put it into the leather goods business, in which he was associated with Keller at 42 North 13th street. What became of this money? Did Keller know what became of it? These questions the police are determined to solve, the most important in this quick-developing case since the finding on Wednesday at noon of the body.

TALE OF BAD CHECKS

The career of Keller was revealed with greater detail today. It was declared by Mrs. Michael Jennings, mother of the victim's wife, today that Keller visited her home at 506 North 22d street several times since McNichol disappeared, saying that the missing man was in New York, alive and well, but in great need of money. She said she gave him on one occasion \$10 in cash and on another a check for \$5 for her non-in-law.

Then she became suspicious and recalled the \$5 check, so when Keller went to the bank he could not get the money. Detective Belshaw said that he had traced bad checks and believed that Keller was implicated in the attempt to pass at least one of them.

WHERE IS THE \$200?

David J. Smythe, former Director of Public Safety, counsel for the McNichol family, said today that the disappearance of the \$200 was "very mysterious. McNichol, he said, could hardly have spent the money in the short time between the time he borrowed the money, on December 16, 1913, and the day of his disappearance, March 30, 1914.

One link in the chain of mysteries was cleared up today. Edward J. Conner, who was a partner in Keller's in the Red Star laundry at 402 Frankford avenue, in the cellar of which the body was found, turned up today. It was at first believed that it might be his body which was in the trunk. He was closely questioned by the detectives at City Hall as to his dealings with Keller.

WAS COUSIN OF J. P. McNICHOL

McNichol was the son of the late Edward McNichol, for many years a tip-staff in the Court of Common Pleas and before that a city contractor. He was a cousin, twice removed, of State Senator James P. McNichol. He was the son of Edward McNichol's first wife. His father's second wife was Miss Sallie Durhan, sister of the late Frank Durhan.

Keller has engaged Clarence P. Sterner, an attorney with offices in the Land Title Building, to defend him. Mr. Sterner said today that he would go before Judge Finley in the Court of Common Pleas today to ask that a writ of habeas corpus be granted for the release of Keller.

It was not McNichol's body that was found in the trunk, Mr. Sterner declared, and both he and Mrs. Keller said that they would produce witnesses at the proper time to show that McNichol is alive today and living in the West.

MISSING WATCH A CLUE

The chief points which the police say they have against Keller are these: That certain pieces of leather straps were found in a house he formerly occupied and they are of the same kind of leather as that found on the trunk in the basement of the dismantled and unoccupied house at 402 Frankford avenue; that the place where the trunk was found was once used by Keller as a laundry; that McNichol's gold watch and diamond ring are missing, and that, according to Mrs. McNichol, Keller came to her home, 306 North 22d street, in October, 1914, or seven

months after the disappearance of her husband, and said that McNichol was in New York and badly in need of money. She gave the man money and clothes and never saw him again until yesterday in the City Hall detective bureau.

PUT UNDER "THIRD DEGREE"

Considering the strain that he is under Keller spent a good night and slept well when he was not being taken to the detective bureau to be put under the "third degree" and when he was not being interviewed by his wife. He was awakened six or eight times before midnight when the detectives thought of some new line of questioning.

The notebook of McNichol, articles of clothing and other things found in the trunk with the body, were displayed before the accused man and he was asked to handle them and closely scrutinized as he did so.

But to all inquiries and intimations he always said, "I know nothing whatever of the brains."

There was a dramatic scene in the office of John Norris, of John Norris & Co., jewelry makers, East Madison avenue, Kensington, before Keller gave himself up yesterday.

"When the detectives come," said the wife, "I want you to tell them the exact truth."

"I am innocent of any crime," Keller answered.

"If you know anything about McNichol's murder, I advise you to go out and get a lawyer and let him handle it," cried Mrs. Keller, according to detectives. Her husband laughed at her, and shortly after this the police arrived, and he was taken to City Hall.

WIFE VISITS HIS CELL

Last night Mrs. Keller, in an agony of nervous suspense, visited the cell of her husband several times. At midnight she was saying to him: "For heaven's sake, tell the exact truth to me and to your lawyer. Do you know anything of this crime?"

"I swear I know nothing of it," replied Keller. "Calm yourself."

Today, when Keller was arraigned before Magistrate Penneck in City Hall, Clarence P. Sterner appeared in Keller's defense, and David J. Smythe, former Director of Public Safety, represented the McNichol family. William H. Hepburn, Jr., was there representing the young widow of the murdered man.

She is a remarkably pretty woman, 21 years of age. She has a young child, which was born after McNichol's disappearance. She collapsed yesterday when she identified the body of her husband, but bore up well under the strain today. She was before her marriage Miss Marie Jennings, the daughter of the late Michael Jennings, who was a coal dealer. She has been living with her mother at the latter's home, 806 North 22d street, since her husband disappeared.

This is the first murder case in Philadelphia in which chemistry has played a leading part in unearthing important

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The Proposed U. S. Super-Submarines Under the naval armament program mapped out by President Wilson and Secretary Daniels, the United States contemplates embarking on the business of submarine building on a comprehensive scale. The plans provide for the construction of undersea fleets more powerful than those any nation now possesses. Charles W. Duke outlines the evolution of the submarine, and writes interestingly of the naval armament program just submitted to Congress, in Sunday's Public Ledger.

links of evidence. McNichol's body was identified through a notebook found in the dead man's pocket. Bernard McNichol, a brother of the victim, and Mrs. McNichol identified it after it had been treated with acids in the coroner's office.

A powerful chemical, the name of which coroner's physician Wadsworth will reveal, was used on the notebook to make legible the typewritten entries. It was thus that the name "McNichol" was deciphered and enough other details to make the identification certain. It is believed the murder was committed in October, 1914, and not shortly after the man disappeared, March 30, 1914. Keller was shown the notebook and admitted he has often seen it in his employer's possession. He was manager for the young leather goods manufacturer.

Keller was twice McNichol's age when they met in the latter part of 1913. He is 47 and McNichol would be 28 now if he had lived. Keller asked the young man to form a leather goods company.

"You have the money, McNichol," he is reported to have said, "and I have the brains."

So a company was formed, called the Keller Leather Goods Company, but Keller was not a member of the firm. The firm included McNichol and his cousin, Edward J. Wade, of 2014 Walnut street.

McNICHOL'S DISAPPEARANCE The company's plant was at 42 North 13th street, near Hamilton. The firm continued in business until early in March, 1914, when it dissolved. At the end of the month McNichol was missing and his disappearance was reported to the police.

It was two days after her husband's disappearance, according to Mrs. McNichol, that Keller came to her and said he knew her husband was alive and would turn up safe, and after this apparently true information the search was abandoned for the young man.

MRS. KELLER'S DENIAL

"Daniel McNichol is not dead. He is alive and at the present time living somewhere in the West," said Mrs. Keller today. "When the proper time arrives my attorney will produce several witnesses who will swear that they saw Mr. McNichol only a few months ago."

"It is absurd to believe that my husband killed Mr. McNichol. My husband had nothing to gain through his death but everything to lose, because they were the best of friends. The police are trying to make a goat out of my husband."

Mrs. Lurena Keller, 35 years old, lives at 2113 Frankford avenue. She sat today in the office of her attorney, Mr. Sterner, in the Land Title Building.

Mrs. Keller, who is a pretty young woman, wore a brown skirt, a black jacket and blue turban hat with a red plume, said she had met her husband six years ago and that they were married in New York city after a courtship of about a year.

"I know that my husband had nothing

to do with the murder," said she. "I know that McNichol is not dead. My husband is a good man. We lived happily together. He has no bad habits and seldom, if ever, went out at night except in my company."

Robbery was not the motive, the police believe, even if McNichol's watch really was stolen. It is believed the principals in the crime quarreled over a woman.

TRY TO EAT THE EVIDENCE IN ALLEGED OPIUM CASE

Wife of a Chinese Also Throws Away a Mysterious Box

George Blong, a Chinese who was arrested with Charlie Sing, accused of selling opium, tried to eat some of the evidence which was presented against the prisoners this afternoon when they were brought before United States Commissioner Edmunds.

The Chinese were surprised in a room at the rear of their restaurant at 11th and South streets by Deputy Internal Revenue Collectors Glover and McDewitt. Mrs. Blong, the white wife of one, threw a mysterious box down a hole in the wall when the Government agents entered. They attempted to dislodge it with revolver shots, but failed.

An opium layout and large can, believed to contain opium, were found in the place. Blong declared that this contained sauce used for making Chinese dishes. To prove his assertion he drank several mouthfuls of it and would have swallowed it all if his captors had not prevented him. Two bottles of liquid found in the house were used for "stummy nche," according to Sing. Each of the prisoners was held in \$500 bail for a further hearing.

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